

## ABSTRACT

Method and apparatus for preventing illegal copying of copyright material. Encrypted data is transmitted from a first computer to a second computer, and the decryption key has to  
5 be requested each time the user want to gain access to the data in an unencrypted form. The encryption key is subsequently rendered unfit for use and/or the decrypted data is rendered unfit for use. The decryption key may be stored in a non-accessible part of a hardware processor of the second computer. Access to the data in an unencrypted form, e.g. the number of copies, may thus be controlled. Further, a method of distributing  
10 electronic data from a number of publishers to a number of recipients. Each publisher makes data available from e.g. a web site, and the recipients may purchase the data via a global computer network. The data is distributed in a safe manner as described above. Makes it possible to publish small editions of data while still protecting the copyright.